CP-3 Construction Grant

OMB Approval No. 1029-0072

SDMS DOCID # 1148170

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining
Washington, DC 20240

☐ Performance Report ☒ Program Narrative Statement

1. Type of Program (Check Appropriate Box)
☒ Abandoned Mine Land Program ☐ State and Federal Program

2. Grant Recipient	Type of Report	Reporting Period	Control Number(s)
The Navajo Nation	Construction Grant		Tribal Share

3. Project Title/Program
Cameron AML Project 3
Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Department
Navajo Division of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 1875, Window Rock, Arizona 86515

4. Performing Organization
Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Department
P.O. Box 1875
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

5. Program Narrative

Estimated Cost: $2,645,505

Objectives and Need for Assistance

The objective of Cameron AML Project 3 is the reclamation of 15,344 feet of highwalls, 63.75 acres of pits, 126.95 acres of waste piles containing radioactive ore, and ten pits containing polluted water being used for agricultural purposes. These features are associated with 08 abandoned non-coal (uranium) mines. The abandoned mines are near Cameron, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. The mines, NA-0155, NA-0163, NA-0166, NA-0172a, NA-0172b, NA-0173, NA-0175, and NA-0180, were operated from 1953 to 1961 and abandoned with no continuing reclamation responsibility under Federal, State, or Tribal laws. The Navajo Nation requests this grant to carry out reclamation in accordance with Section 409, Public Law 95-87 (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977) and the Navajo Nation Reclamation Plan, approved May of 1988.

Results and Benefits Expected

Exposure at these mines to the well known hazards of dangerous highwall, dangerous waste piles, and polluted water will be removed for nearby residents and visitors to these sites. Exposure to the less tangible hazards of gamma radiation and airborne radionuclides will also be significantly lowered at these sites. See Chart on the following page for list of Priority One hazards to be addressed:

OSM-51 (12/80)

"The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 35) requires us to inform you that: This information is being collected to determine how an

LIST OF AML PRIORITY ONE HAZARDS TO BE ADDRESSED IN CP3

Site No.	Site Name	Total Acreage	DH (in feet)	PWAI (count)	DPE (in Acres)
NA-0155	Charles Huskon No. 10	38.30	1,835	1	15.94
NA-0163	Ryan No. 1	7.51	263	1	3.73
NA-0166	Charles Huskon No. 11	25.36	1,380	1	5.79
NA-0172a	RAMCO No. 21	15.29	1,937	1	9.97
NA-0172b	RAMCO No. 21	18.76	1,417	1	7.45
NA-0173	RAMCO No. 22	20.25	1,665	1	7.43
NA-0175	Ryan No. 2	120.94	5,253	3	61.99
NA-0180	Yazzie No. 2	40.49	1,594	1	14.65
	TOTALS	286.90	16,918	10	126.95

DH = Dangerous Highwall DPE = Dangerous Pile or Embankment
PWAI = Polluted Water Used for Agricultural/Industrial Purposes

Approach

The basic approach to mine reclamation for Cameron AML Project 3 will be the use of mine wastes and overburden to backfill the mine pits, regrading the area to reduce erosion. Revegetation is not anticipated, due to the high alkaline/sodic nature of the soil material. Replacement ponds will be constructed, at sites where no water source is within 1 1/2 to 2 miles, to replace the water source provided by the pits or nearby water sources, i.e. earthen stock tanks, windmills, etc., will be maintained or repaired if needed.

The reclamation construction, construction surveying and the paleontological salvaging and monitoring (required as a mitigation measure) will be contracted out.

The cost of the reclamation construction is estimated at $2,475,500. See the Cameron AML Project 3 Direct Cost Estimate Summary for details.

Six (6) sites require paleontological monitoring and/or salvaging; Of the six sites, five sites require monitoring and two sites require salvaging. Salvaging will be done prior to reclamation and monitoring will be during reclamation activities. The paleontological monitoring and salvaging are mitigation measures outlined in the Paleontological Survey Report. The estimated cost is for this service will be $70,082.00; See Paleontological Salvaging and Monitoring Estimate. The acreage to be monitored is 193.29 acres (1.91 times the acreage monitored in CP1 and CP3) and the salvaging will take one week.

Construction surveying for this project will be done by aerial photography, and this data will be used to assist in mapping, volume calculations, cross sectioning, and payments to the contractor. The survey data will also be used in case of volume/payment disputes or other claims made by the contractor or others. The cost estimate for this service is $34,727 or $121 (based on CP2 estimates) per acre

An Engineering Technician III will be hired to assist Navajo AML Reclamation Department staff as an onsite representative and monitor during the reclamation construction period.

The Hopi Tribe will be allowed to comment on the environmental assessment for this project.

The Project is expected to take 52 weeks to complete. Possible causes for delays include, the Navajo Nation contracting process, contract disputes, weather, and NEPA mitigation compliance.

Geographic Location

Cameron Project 3 is located near the western edge of the Navajo Nation near Cameron, Arizona. Cameron is 50 miles north of Flagstaff, Arizona and the 09 miles mines range from 7.25 miles southeast of Cameron to 12.0 miles southeast of Cameron.

Project Schedule

It is anticipated that the Cameron Project 3 will begin on or about December 01,1993, and be completed 12 months later, around December 01, 1994. This is contingent upon the tribal contracting process. Construction activities will begin with the large site NA-0175 and the sites east of the Little Colorado River and finish up with the sites on west of the river.